

# THE CONDOR

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Santa Clara, California

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R. R. Rogers  
Reed Nichols  
1902 -

# The Condor

A MAGAZINE OF WESTERN ORNITHOLOGY

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YOUNG AMERICAN BARN OWLS.  
(*Strix pratincta*)

PHOTO. BY GEO. TORNE.

## The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Texas.

FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY.

IN visiting the prairie country of southern Texas, the scissor-tail was one of the first new birds that I noticed, and his forceful originality made him the last to seem common or uninteresting. If you see him first perched on the chaparral you are struck by his long white tail and glistening black, white, and salmon plumage. In perching the tail is closed thin and the black of the wings contrasts well with the bright salmon sides. He sits quietly like any every-day bird giving only an occasional bee-bird note till suddenly—up he darts into the air, and with delighted wonder you watch his odd figure and odder gyrations in the sky.

One of his favorite performances is to fly up and, with rattling wings, execute an aerial seesaw, a line of sharp angled VVVVVVs, helping himself at the short turns by rapidly opening and shutting his long white scissors. As he goes up and down he utters all the while a penetrating bee-bird scream *ka-quee'—ka-quee'—ka-quee'—ka-quee'—ka-quee'*, the emphasis being given each time at the top of the ascending line.

Frequently when he is passing along with the even flight of a sober minded crow and you are quietly admiring the salmon lining of his wings, he will shoot rattling into the air and as you stare after him, drop back as suddenly as he rose. He does this apparently because the spirit moves him, as a boy slings a stone at the sky, but fervor is added by the appearance of a rival or an enemy, for he is much like a Tyrannus in his masterful way of controlling his landscape.

The head of a family we saw on the Nueces River one day was guarding his mate at the nest when another scissor-tail invaded his preserves. The angry guardian flew at him in fury, chasing him from the field with a loud noise of wings. At the first sound of combat the brooding bird's head ap-

peared above the nest and hopping up on the rim she watched the chase with craned neck till the intruder with her lord and master close at his heels faded into white specks in the blue.

Another day we saw a scissor tail in pursuit of an innocent caracara who was accidentally passing through the neighborhood. The slow ungainly caracara was no match for the swift-winged flycatcher and with a dash Milvulus pounced down upon him and actually rode the hawk till they were out of sight.

The flycatcher's long feathery tail gives it such a light airy, not to say ethereal appearance that the heavy role of pugilist seems most unbecoming, but such a flying apparatus doubtless suggests much mischief. If a slow-winged Chondestes starts after an insect and by bustling along at its best can only just keep even, what more natural than that a swift-winged onlooker should swoop down and with one beat of the wings pass over the head of his laboring neighbor and snap up the bug from under its bill? And what more natural than for him to give a chuckling twitter and a shake of his tail as he sails off leaving his crest-fallen brother to drop heavily to the ground? Such a shocking performance was witnessed close to the court house—the hall of justice, alas!—in Uvalde; for the scissor-tails while as free as Texas rangers on the prairie, make themselves as much at home as mayors and aldermen in the towns. In San Antonio and Austin they are to be seen perching on telegraph wires and fences as complacently as English sparrows.

The powerful flight of Milvulus is useful not alone in social matters but in the small affairs of life. Mr. Bailey once saw one bathe on the wing in the deep water of the Concho River. The bird swooped down, struck the surface of the water with his breast and glanced

up dripping with the spray. He repeated this five times in about as many minutes stopping between to shake and preen his feathers.

A bird who does everything in such a large way can hardly be expected to bring his mind to commonplace detail, and the nest of the scissor-tail certainly looks as if made on a generalization. It is usually big, with long streamers dangling from it in the breeze and looks as if the materials had been thrown at it—in passing. One nest we found at Rio Coloral, however, was a marked exception to all the others we saw, being small, compact, and neatly built. It had a large admixture of wool, left by the goats on the barbed wire fences.

Wherever you find him the scissor-tail is so much in evidence that, like a barking coyote, one is as good as a flock, but in parts of the mesquite prairies of southern Texas the beautiful birds really abound. Near Corpus Christi we once counted thirteen in sight down the road. The largest number we ever found together, however, was in the San Ignatius oak mott, a grove of oaks half way between Corpus Christi and Brownsville. In that section the low

shin oaks of the sand prairie affords no good roosting places and the birds of various kinds congregate at night in the few oasis-like oak groves. The night we got to the San Ignatius mott we were too much occupied making camp before dark to notice much but a general noisy assembly of grackles and scissor-tails and the presence of a *Pyrocephalus*, the red of whose breast we could just discern in the twilight; but at sundown, when Mr. Bailey shot a rattlesnake at the foot of a big oak in camp the report was followed by a roar and rattle in the top of the tree and a great flock of scissor-tails arose and dispersed in the darkness. They did not all leave the tree, apparently, even then, although some of them may have returned to it, for when daylight came to my surprise a large number of them straggled out of the tree. How one oak top could hold so many birds seemed a mystery. Before the flycatchers dispersed for the day the sky around the mott was alive with them careering around in their usual acrobatic manner making the air vibrate with their shrill screams.

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#### Some Experiences of 1901.

P. M. SILLOWAY, LEWISTON, MONT.

A BRIGHT morning, May 28, saw me early afield in quest of eggs of the long billed curlew, (*Numenius longirostris*). A dry pond on the prairie about two miles from my home appeared to be the center of operations of a colony of these curlews, and I started out in high hope of adding a number of sets of *Numenius* to my collection. By way of introduction I should say that my experience with *Numenius* in the preceding season had so elated me that I felt capable of finding any nest of this species which might chance to be on the prairie. On this particular morning, therefore, I am armed with a capacious basket and sundry other receptacles

(cigar-boxes), and was anticipating a red-letter day in my oological career; in fact, I was already formulating an exchange notice, announcing to my needy ornithological friends that I was overstocked with eggs of the long-billed curlew and that I would take any old thing in exchange for them.

The pond mentioned was near the corner of four extensive pastures, so that I had ample field for the exercise of my powers as a finder of curlews' nests. Approaching the pond from the south, according to a system I had arranged, I was not surprised to see a curlew flying out to meet me, cackling his disapproval. Now, anyone who has



hunted nests of the curlew systematically, knows that when you get near a nest, say within five hundred yards, the first movement of the male is to fly overhead from somewhere, cackle his disapproval, and alight near you, generally within fifty yards. Then you should turn either to the right or left of him, and walk onward; if he pays no further attention to you, you are on the wrong lead; but if he arises and flies near you again, cackling as before, you are getting nearer the object of your quest. So on this occasion, a male came cackling and gave the usual signs that his spouse was somewhere within a radius of several hundred yards, sitting on her four large handsome eggs.

By following my system, I soon had the male flying straight at me. I should further explain that when you are getting near the nest, say within three hundred yards, the male begins to fly out a long distance from you, turns quickly, and strikes a direct line for your head. Moreover, he generally flies toward the nest, so that the male, your head, and the nest are in one straight line, and you have only to search in the line of his flight to find the female flattened out over her treasures. It is all easy enough, but on this particular day the males seemed to be more vigilant and jealous than usual, and hence I made the mistake of not following the clue far enough. Having spent at least an hour in a vain effort to find this nest, I crossed into an adjacent pasture, where another male began to manifest his displeasure at my invasion, and was soon flying at me. This male led me a merry chase for two hours; when it seemed that I should be quite near the nest, he would alight near me and leisurely glean among the scant herbage, apparently quite indifferent regarding my movements. At length I gave up in disgust, and left this center for more profitable localities. However, several days later I found both these nests, with eggs far advanced in incubation, after less than thirty

minutes search when I had caught the first clue; I hope to get to these later.

Disappointed at my failure to find nests of the curlew, I went onward across the bench, and reached a wide irrigating ditch, bordered by a narrow growth of weeds and bushes. A marsh hawk tumbling end over end high in air gave me reason to believe that I might find a nest in the bushes, so I began to search among the rose thickets. Finding nothing in the rose-patches, I gave attention to the lower growth of waxberry, along the outer edge of the weedy areas. Soon a Columbian sharp-tailed grouse fluttered heavily from beneath my feet, exposing her nest among upright stems of the bushes. It is remarkable how open a nest can be, and yet seem entirely concealed from view. I could easily look down and count the fourteen eggs in this nest, but had the hen seen fit to remain with her charge, her youngsters might now be affording sport to some of the Sunday gunners.

It is from long habit as a breaker of the game laws, I suppose, that the oologist feels a guilty feeling when a chicken or other game bird flutters from under his feet, revealing her nest nicely packed with eggs. Of course I looked around, making sure that the thunderous whirring of her wings had not alarmed the occupants of the house less than a half mile distant. Then I sank to the ground, and prepared to pack those fourteen coffee-brown eggs, easing my conscience with the thought that our game law allows the gunner the right to kill not more than twenty birds in one day in the open season, and I was simply taking mine in the egg in the spring while the sportsman prefers his in the feather in the fall. As I was not out for grouse eggs, I should not take another set that day, and especially one of fourteen. So I lifted out the eggs one by one, packed them in a cigar box, and made my data. Nest of dried grass, scantily lined with downy feathers; cavity seven inches in diameter, two inches deep, open at the



top.

Continuing my search for the nest of the marsh hawk, I had not gone a hundred yards from the site of the grouse's nest, when a second female Columbian sharp-tailed grouse lumbered from my feet. (I forgot to give the technical name before, which is *Pediocetes phasianellus columbianus*.) This nest was among upright rose-stems and nettles; I remember the nettles particularly, for every time I reached down to take out an egg, my hand was scratched, and it was poisoned for several days. This nest was open above, and as I hurriedly scanned the contents, I was sure I counted fourteen eggs. This time I felt like an escaped convict, but circumstances were so favorable that I felt impelled to pack the eggs. In case I was interrupted by anyone so low-minded as to overlook the needs of science, I was prepared with a permit to collect anything at any time for the state university museum; and of course these would be for the university museum. My fourteen embryonic chickens had increased to twenty eight, all fresh. This nest was made as the first, in a cavity six inches across and two inches deep, entirely surrounded by the upright stems.

The morning of May 29 seemed to be favorable for further quest of curlews' nests, so taking the same course I had followed the preceding morning, I soon was met by the watchful male who had first entertained me. Determined to follow in this instance to the last extremity, in about twenty minutes I had the male feinting at me from all sides, the last stage in the proceedings, and presently I espied the female brooding over her charge, lying as flat as possible, with head and bill lying on the ground in front of her. Flapping to her feet, she ran limping and fluttering over the ground for thirty or forty yards; then she joined with the male in cackling protests at the despoilation of her household. The nest was among scant grass blades, beside a pile of dried cow man-

ure. The only material was a few pieces of coarse grass stems and several lumps of dried manure, somewhat larger than peas, their use being apparently to hold the eggs in place in the nest. The cavity was eight inches and six inches major and minor axes, two inches deep. The four eggs were placed as usual with the small ends together in the middle of the nest. They were far advanced in incubation. The pattern of coloration was dark green, with large blotches of dark brown, and blackish spots, the markings being more numerous at the larger end, and on one or more of the eggs the markings at the large end were nearly confluent.

Having found one nest of the long-billed curlew, it is difficult to locate another in the same pasture, for the owners of the first nest will follow the disturber, making frequent feints, and the collector will be unable to tell whether it is the owner of a new nest or the pair that has been despoiled. I have known a pair of curlews, whose nest I had despoiled, to follow me three miles, feinting at me as if I were on the first trail of their nest. So I returned home, and on the same afternoon I selected a pasture in a different direction. After walking about half a mile in the pasture, I attracted the notice of a male. As usual, he cackled overhead, and alighted near me. Keeping at a brisk walk, I found this nest in about twenty minutes; in fact, I found it before I was prepared for it, not expecting to chance upon it for another hundred yards at least. It was near the middle of a gentle slope, made between a tuft of tanzy and a pile of dried cow manure, of coarse pieces of weed stems and pellets of manure. These eggs were far advanced in incubation, but were nicely prepared with pancreatin.

It happened that all my nests of the long-billed curlew this season held eggs about ready to hatch. Duties connected with my school kept me in when I desired to be in the field. Good sets of eggs should be taken between the 18th

2nd 5th of a May. Out of ten nests found this year, I saved only four sets; in several I had the pleasure of finding the younglings emerging from the shell.

It was on June 1 that I found the nest of the male which had led me the exasperating chase on the morning of May 28. On the later occasion I approached the place from a different direction. In a short time the male was fluttering excitedly over my head, and I could not understand his actions; but a deep, wide "coulee" lay between me and the continued line of flight, so I lost no time in crossing the coulee. On the crest of the knoll I found the nest, situated and made as usual. I easily understood why I had failed to find it on the earlier day, for it lay at least two hundred yards beyond where I had fancied it should be, and across the fence in an adjoining pasture. The pattern of coloration of the eggs was light yellowish green, with bold markings of dark brown. I packed the eggs, and went on my way rejoicing, chuckling over my skill in having found the nest which had given me such trouble. But when drilling the first hole that evening, my ear was saluted by a far-away-sounding "peep," and I realized that he laughs best who laughs last; after all, I had failed, for my collection was no richer than when I had given up the quest in disgust on the earlier morning.

It was on the following Sunday afternoon I found my last curlew nest of the season. At about 3:30 I was crossing a large pasture, when a male gave the customary signs that I was in the vicinity of a nest. Although a threatening cloud was rolling up in the west, and I had on a pair of new trousers, I accepted the challenge, and followed up the lead with unusual alacrity. At the

end of thirty minutes I was enveloped in a drifting shower, and Numenius was gleaning contentedly over across the pasture. Acknowledging myself beaten, I started for home, but had not gone far when the curlew again began his angry threatenings. Now I was satisfied that a nest was somewhere on that section, anyway, and as the shower had passed, I again set myself to the search; my new trousers were spoiled, so what difference did it make if I kept up the quest? For several hundred yards I hunted in the line apparently indicated by the angry curlew; another shower was scurrying from the mountains, and again I gave up the chase, turned my back upon the indicated center of the curlew's demonstrations, and hurried homeward. But the curlew renewed his feints, and was I going to leave a set of handsome eggs lying out upon the prairie when determined search would bring them to light? Not I. I would be late for supper anyhow; I was already wet to the skin, and so nothing was to be gained by hurrying home. Buttoning up my coat to protect my Sunday necktie, and tilting up the rim of my hat to lead the water elsewhere than down my back, I bent over the trail in grim resolution. It was just about dusk when I climbed through the wire fence into the next pasture, and there—not twenty feet from the fence, lay the female, waiting for me almost to lift her from the nest. One downy yellow youngster was crouching helplessly upon his breast between the halves of his recent home, another had pushed apart the forward end of the shell and was quaintly looking out upon a new world, while vigorous "peeps" announced that there would be more curlews another year to give zest to the season of '02.

## Hummingbird Experiences from my Note Book.

MOLLIE BRYAN, ORANGE, CAL.

AT this season of the year, when household cares are not occupying the Anna hummingbirds, (*Calypte anna*) they may be observed at any hour of the day about their chosen feeding grounds. They always select a perch near their favorite flavors, where they alight to rest, preen their feathers, sing their squeaky, mouse-like song and occasionally dart out that long needle-like tongue after some passing insect, snapping its bill with quite an air of satisfaction over the dainty morsel. To any of the members of the Cooper Club who wish to establish a friendship with one of these tiny creatures I can heartily recommend that a red sun-bonnet be worn, or a red wrapper—but the sun-bonnet will prove the most effective and this will insure you the notice and often very especial attention from any of these color-loving birds, and while it is watching this new species of flower, you will be enabled to approach the little hummer's perch.

The Anna hummer is the familiar friend of many households in Southern California, sometimes choosing sites for their nests which show unlimited confidence in their human friends, or in their own ability to elude observation. At my own home they have sometimes built directly over the front walk, the tiny nest saddled to a limb of the pine tree, but alas!—twenty feet above my head. As little is to be learned by the neck-breaking work of watching such a nest, I go to my neighbors for observations, where the birds are more considerate. At the home of one of these was the quaintest nest I ever saw. It was in a loop of bale rope that hung from the ceiling of the woodshed, and was securely fastened by threads of cobweb to the rope. The nest was completed and eggs laid, before it was discovered by anyone. It hung just inside the door, and there the little owner sat gazing into the eyes of all who

came to make her acquaintance. A prettier sight could not be imagined than this little nest, swaying gently in the sea breeze as the occupant gazed out on the busy world, as though this was the most natural place in the world for a nest.

Another bird chose for her home the vines that twined above the steps of the back porch, of another friend. Early one morning my friend observed the bird fluttering among the leaves overhead, and thinking she had become entangled in a spider web, went to her rescue. As the bird darted away she saw a tiny bit of leaf down resting on a twig of the ivy, evidently the foundation of a nest. The family and neighbors were called and although it was Monday and wash-day, there was time to spare to watch little madam at her labors, for she labored alone. The step ladder was set up beneath the nest—to be, and one and another mounted to watch, as the walls of the little home were erected and shaped over the breast of the little builder, as she turned this way and that in the nest, fitting and moulding it, working and pressing the material in with her bill. She paid no heed to the notice she was attracting, but worked as busy as a bee till almost night. The walls were just high enough to keep it in place, when she deposited one egg. The second day the walls crept higher and higher and before night the second egg was laid. The third day the finishing touches were added to walls and lining—the little felt cup was finished. On the fourth day incubation began.

It was three weeks before the little birds appeared, when the customary "pumping process" called feeding the little ones, was enacted. One of the little ones thrived wonderfully, stretching the nest to accommodate its increasing size. By another three weeks the nest was almost in tatters and the ro-

bust child decided to leave. As it spread its wings to fly away the weakling brother fell to the ground. Kind hands rescued it, the torn nest was carefully drawn together and it placed within, for we supposed, of course, the mother would come to feed it, but she did not. All day it lay without food. That night a rain came, and the next day it seemed chilled and almost life-

less. Flowers were placed near it that it might find food within—if it would. Another cold night passed, and we thought the life of the little one would be ended, but when the warm sun came it raised itself, stretched first one wing then the other, and with a last look at its human friends darted away to be lost in bird-land.

### The Oregon Song Sparrow.

BY WALTER K. FISHER.

**M**R. Joseph Grinnell has generously placed at my disposal a series of fourteen curious dark song sparrows collected by Mr. Edmund Heller at Crescent City, California, and along the coast of southern Oregon. A comparison of the series with some excellent unworn examples of the Mendocino, rusty, and sooty song sparrows in the National Museum and Biological Survey collections proves that the form is undescribed, as Mr. Grinnell thought when he forwarded me the specimens.

#### +*Melospiza cinerea phæa* new subspecies.

##### OREGON SONG SPARROW.

Type, ♂ ad., No. 4974, Coll. Joseph Grinnell; Gardiner, mouth of Umpqua R., Oregon, Dec. 1, 1901; collected by Edmund Heller.

*Subspecific characters*.—Intermediate in size between *Melospiza cinerea cleonensis* and *M. c. morphna* but darker than either; in general color and markings nearly identical with *Melospiza cinerea rufina*, but much smaller. Measurements of type in millimeters: wing, 68; tail, 65; exposed culmen, 11; depth of bill at base 6.5; tarsus 22.5.

*Distribution*.—Immediate vicinity of coast from Rogue R. to Yaquina, Oregon.

Measurements of type series compared with *Melospiza cinerea rufina*, *M. c. morphna*, and *M. c. cleonensis*.

*phæa*:

			Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.
Crescent City	♂	Sept. 15	61.	58.	10.5
"	♂	"	62.	60.	10.5
"	♂ ad	"	62.5	61.5	10.75
Goldbeach, Or.	♂ ad	Oct. 10	64.	65.	11.
"	♂	"	61.	61.	11.
Gardiner, Or.	♂ ad	Dec. 1	65.	60.	11.
"	♂ ad	"	65.	60.	11.
"	♂ ad	"	68.	65.	11.
"	♂	"	65.	65.	11.
"	♂	"	67.	65.	11.
Yaquina, Or.	♂	Oct. 31, '94	62.	62.	11.
Average 11 ♂ ♂			64.	62.4	11.
Goldbeach	♀	Oct. 10	65.	63.	11.
"	♀	"	63.	60.	11.
Gardiner	♀	Dec. 1	61.	61.	10.
"	♀	"	63.	60.	11.5
Average, 4 ♀ ♀			63.	61.	11.
<i>rufina</i> : average,	5 ♂ ♂		72.1	70.1	12.4 (Ridgway)
"	13 ♀ ♀		67.	63.5	12.2
<i>morphna</i> : "	20 ♂ ♂		67.8	66.	12.9
"	13 ♀ ♀		65.	63.	12.4
<i>cleonensis</i> "	13 ♂ ♂		61.7	59.9	11.9
"	9 ♀ ♀		59.4	58.1	11.9

In some respects the Oregon song sparrow is a remarkable form. It is darker than the races north and south of its range, and duplicates in coloring the sooty song sparrow of the Sitkan District. The races along the coast seem thus to alternate light and dark. But while *phaea* is nearly identical with *rufina* in color, it is conspicuously smaller, and the ranges of the two are separated by several hundred miles.

The present form occupies a strip along the coast from the northern limit of the redwoods (?) or at least from Rogue River north to Yaquina. The specimens from Crescent City are probably migrants as the breeding birds seem nearer *cleonensis* (tho not precisely typical). The area of intergradation between *cleonensis* and *phaea* is probably small, extending perhaps from Crescent City to Chetco R. (northern limit of *Sequoia sempervirens*). Lack of specimens prevents the exact determination of the limits of *phaea* at the north.

I am indebted to Mr. Robert Ridgway and to Dr. C. Hart Merriam for the use of specimens and types in the collection of the National Museum and in that of the Biological Survey.

#### Winter Observations on the Colorado Desert.

F. S. DAGGETT, PASADENA, CAL.

FROM Oct. 27 to Nov. 16, 1901, I spent at the American Girl Gold Mining Co.'s camp, located in the Cargo Murchacho Mts on the Colorado Desert, five and one-half miles northeast of Ogilby, Cal., and some sixteen miles west of Yuma, on the Colorado River. The westward trend of the river below Yuma, however, brings the stream within eleven miles of camp to the southeast.

From a bird standpoint, or any other, for that matter, it is a most uninviting spot. The camp is located in a dry gulch formed by ridges of barren rock north and south of it. At one time the wash at the bottom of the gulch supported a few stunted palo verde, iron wood and mesquite trees, but they have long since been cut for fuel. The only water obtained is from a pipe line reaching the Colorado River eleven miles away. The pipes are carefully watched for leakages so the birds have scant supply from that source, but a floating board in the reservoir at the end of the pipe line furnishes a possible watering place. I often saw them at the tub in the horse corral and about the seepage at the end of the kitchen drain. Another place, and a most deadly trap it proved judging from the

dead birds floating on its surface, was the cyanide tanks, two in number, containing a strong solution of cyanide of potassium. Birds that essayed to quench their thirst at this fount toppled over dead in an instant.

When I arrived in camp I found several American pipits, three intermediate sparrows (*Z. l. gambeli*) and another variety of sparrow too soaked by solution for identification, besides many that rested on the bottom of the tank. The most common and the only resident bird, the rock wren, seemed to avoid this danger entirely, it being attractive only to thirsty migrants. That there is a migration across the desert is evident from the fact that such birds, as mentioned above, are found so far from their natural environment. A small horse and a larger mule corral, with its scattered hay, offers some attraction for birds in the way of seeds and grain, but only once did I see them take advantage of it, when three juncos were seen on the ground near the baled hay at daylight one morning.

There were about a dozen rock wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) about camp. They were very tame in the vicinity of building, wood and lumber piles, but very wary and secretive among the



rocks beyond the limits of the camp. On a previous trip in July, when the thermometer registered 120 degrees in the shade and the rocks were so heated that one could not hold the bare hand upon them, these birds worked over them as unconcernedly as in winter. On October 28 I saw a western black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans semiatra*) in a side canyon close to camp.

On the 29th several juncos (*Junco hyemalis thurberi*) flew from the rear of the store when I approached, where they had been inspecting some sweepings and went up the same side canyon. This same side canyon, by the way, was the only place where I succeeded in getting specimens of this bird. They would keep along the bottom of this wash beyond reach, but by concealing myself and firing one barrel of the gun the echoes would so confuse the birds that one was sure to fly within range of the other barrel. The juncos were in camp every day of my stay but I never saw more than six at one time.

October 30 I saw two intermediate sparrows, (*Z. l. gambeli*) at the outlet of kitchen drain. They would dodge under a flat-growing weed a few feet away and peer out. If I made no motion, one of them a young bird of the year with brown stripes on the crown, would come out and hop about the moist spot, but the old bird with white stripes was always shy, in fact I only saw it for one day, although the other remained ten days. The storekeeper called my attention to a wren that had come in the open door and caged itself among the rafters. It had no white superciliary stripe, so I took it to be the Parkman wren.

Nov. 1, three ravens (*Corvus corax sinuatus*) flew along just under the top of the ridge south of camp. Once after that I saw two others flying along the same route, and again on Nov. 11 when they changed their course and flew down the side canyon, over the mule corral and the mexican quarter and back again, resuming their westward

flight along the ridge. Nov. 2, a Say phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) remained about camp all day and again on the 13th I saw it on the slope of the southern ridge. A small hawk, about twice the size of our desert sparrow hawk circled over camp twice and then departed towards the river through the reservoir gap. On the 13th, a mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) came swiftly up the gulch, alighted at the drain a few moments, and departed as quickly in the direction of the river.

In July I have seen several turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) sail over camp, coming from the river and going towards the Golden Cross mine, where a horse or mule is sometimes hauled out for them to feast upon, a rather difficult task in this dry region where a carcass is more apt to dry up than to decay. The above includes all the birds seen in the desolate region mentioned, during over three weeks observation.

On Nov. 4 I drove down to the pumping plant situated at the other end of the pipe line, on the California side of the Colorado River, one and one-half miles above the Mexican boundary and some ten miles below Yuma. No birds were seen until among the brush-studded sand dunes which lie between the real desert and the rank growth of the moist river bottom. Here a lot of phainopeplas (*Phainopepla nitens*) had congregated on the palo verde and mesquite which grew in the washes.

We arrived at the plant at dusk, and in order not to disturb the domestic arrangements of the engineer, spread our blankets on the sand among the mesquite near the river bank. The next morning, (Nov. 5,) at first streak of dawn I was awakened by a tremendous clucking and chatter, coming from the other side of the clump of mesquite, not ten feet away. It proved to be a flock of forty to fifty gambel partridges (*Lophortyx gambeli*) on their morning foray along the river bank. There was no sleep after that, so I spent a couple

of hours loitering among the mesquite clumps within half a mile of the plant. The old Hanlon ranch with its huge date palms loaded with ripening fruit, is located here. There are also some other fruits in their season. The Mexican in charge complained that the birds damaged his fruit and he constantly made pot shots among them.

I saw half a dozen western gnat-catchers (*Polioptila caerulea obscura*) gleaned insects which had adhered to the sticky surface of the dates.

It was here that I saw my first Gila woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*). He flew from these same palms to a stub sticking out of a mistletoe-covered mesquite. The mistletoe was white with berries and he may have been after these, but catching a glimpse of me, scarcely fifty feet away, he gave several decided jerks of his head and then flew back to the palms. About fifteen minutes later he came to the

same spot and I had another good view of him. Other birds noted, and of which I secured specimens, were the verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) cactus wren, (*Heleodytes brunneicapillus*) cowbird, (*Molothrus ater*) house finch, (*Carduelis mexicana frontalis*) sharp-shinned hawk, (*Accipiter velox*) and red shafted flicker; (*Colaptes cafer collaris*). Also noted a flock of seven western bluebirds, (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*), white rumped shrikes, (*Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*) and rock wrens, the latter about the gravel-covered slopes leading up from the river bottom to the main desert. I was prevented by serious illness from making a more extensive examination of this field, but I am convinced that that part of California which lies next to the Mexican boundary has much in store for ornithologists who may investigate it in the future.

#### A Few Notes on the Nesting of *Trochilus alexandri*.

R. C. WUESTE, SAN DIEGO, CAL.

IT would be hard to find an individual displaying no interest at the sight of a member of the family under discussion tonight. Ornithologists and laity alike seem always imbued with enough of the æsthetic to grant these little gems a warm spot in their hearts. Personally, I will say at least, that I have found their acquaintance most fascinating.

I have chosen the black chinned hummingbird (*T. alexandri*) because of a greater experience with the species and also because I consider it the characteristic form of this locality; certainly it is the most abundant nesting species I have observed here. Although I have met with this hummingbird forty miles inland, nearly all of the nests and eggs in my possession have been collected within two miles of the sea and practically at sea level. The small patches of willows which here and there dot dry, sandy water-courses are

shown perhaps a necessary partiality. However where cotton-woods and sycamores are found, they are not despised. Two cases in which a weed stalk and a wild grapevine were used have even come under my notice. By the side of such willow patches, strips of wild tobacco often run, and it is then that we have found an ideal nesting ground.

Nest building commences during the latter half of April and during May nesting is in full swing. During this month their purpose to perpetuate their kind is deeply seated; in one case the domicile and contents of a pair were taken three consecutive times from the identical position; the fourth nest and eggs were allowed to remain in the possession of the ambitious though unwise little mother. The nest is a dainty cup-shaped affair placed at heights varying from two to twenty feet. It is composed only of plant down and spider webs, with never a lichen or feather to



mar its snowy whiteness. However let me state that the majority are cream-colored and when sycamore down is used in the construction the nest appears a rusty color. We find it always completely saddled to a branch or twig—horizontal and otherwise, and when the angle becomes extreme an odd cornucopia effect is produced. So in such a fairy structure of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches inside diameter the two perfectly elliptical eggs are deposited. These I have found to average .30x.51 inches. Before incubation has begun they possess a decidedly pinkish tinge and it would be difficult to say whether they look prettier before

or after their contents have been extracted—we will however leave such delicate question to the primary owners.

I have always been interested in the remarkable elasticity of the nests of the Anna hummingbird which allows itself to double its inside diameter by the time the young have reached their largest nest size. I will only add that I have found the same elasticity in *T. alexandri* although in not such a marked degree. Such are the most notable features I have observed in the nidification of this species in several years acquaintance.

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#### Owl Notes from Southern California.

FRANK STEPHENS.

On April 28, 1883, I took a set of nine eggs from a burrow of *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa* near San Bernardino, and the next day another set of nine eggs from another burrow near the first one. These are the largest sets I have ever taken. I was hunting with F. Ball January 18, 1885, in the foothills northeast of San Bernardino. About noon we were walking up a gulch when Ball fired into a bush and on walking over to it picked up — *Megascops flammeolus*. He said it had flown from the other side of the gulch, and appeared to be carrying in its claws something like a lizard or a bird.

On March 25, 1884, I took a set of ten eggs of *Strix pratincola* from a nest

in an old dovecote in a barn near San Bernardino. I had found a brood of six newly hatched young in this nest during January of the same year.

June 20, 1892, I shot a male, female, and one young *Syrnium occidentale* on Smith Mountain, San Diego Co., at about 5,000 feet. The young bird was just about able to fly.

I shot an adult male *Nyctala acadica* — August 11, 1898, at Round Valley, San Jacinto Mts. altitude 9200 feet. I saw some small owl fly from one pine to another and shot into the pine. This is the only owl of this species I have taken in California. In July, 1894, I heard the species in Modoc County.

Status of *Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea* Grinnell.

BY WALTER K. FISHER.

**T**HIS subspecies was described by Joseph Grinnell<sup>1</sup> from the Santa Cruz Mts., Santa Clara Co., California, and was subsequently rejected by the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature<sup>2</sup>.

Through the kindness of Mr. Robert Ridgway and Dr. C. Hart Merriam I have had the opportunity of examining all the material in the National Museum collection, and in that of the Biological Survey, including the types of *Cyanocitta stelleri annectens*, *Cyanocitta stelleri carlottæ*, and *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*. Added to this is a small but pertinent collection forwarded by Mr. Grinnell, and a specimen from Mt. Shasta kindly loaned by Mr. John H. Sage. Especially valuable is a series of eleven birds from Vancouver Island, from the following localities: Victoria 2, Cadboro Bay 2, Goldstream 3, Departure Bay 1, Comox 3.

*Corvus stelleri* was described by Gmelin in *Systema Naturae* I, 1788, the type locality being clearly stated as Nootka Sound, Vancouver Id., B. C. ("in sinu Natka Americae borealis." l. c. p. 370.). Mr. Grinnell in lieu of specimens from

SIMILARITY OF  
ALASKAN AND VAN-  
COUVER ID. BIRDS.

Vancouver Id., took Sitka birds for comparison. Nootka Sound is situated in n. lat. 49° 30' on the west coast of the island, considerably north of the middle, not "near the southern end" as Mr. Grinnell states. The series of birds from Vancouver Id. is really intermediate, as one would expect, between the Sitka birds, which are as dark as any from Alaska, and the Oregon-California series (*carbonacea*).

The Vancouver Id. birds are however so close to the Sitka form that the two are practically the same. The slight difference is seen only when a series of the one is compared closely with the other. The two agree substantially in: shade of back, peculiar blue of underparts, amount of black on breast, and size. One specimen from Victoria in the extreme southern end of the island is aberrant in the shade of the underparts and the extent of black thereon, in which it approaches *carbonacea*. The difference seems to be purely individual.

On the other hand the birds from the coast of California, and from western Oregon are at once separable from those of Vancouver, Id., both individually and 'en masse.'

DIFFERENCE BE-  
TWEEN BIRDS FROM  
CALIFORNIA AND  
OREGON AND THOSE  
FROM VANCOUVER ID.

birds the black of the head extends caudad over the breast, while in the series from California and Oregon this same marking as a rule does not go beyond the jugulum. In the northern bird the black encroaches more onto the sides. The black of the throat and breast of *stelleri* merges gradually into the blue of the abdomen and suffuses this blue with a light wash, so as to make it relatively much darker than in *carbonacea*, and more toward a dull Antwerp-verd-iter blue<sup>3</sup>. In *carbonacea* however, the back, throat, and jugulum, instead of being a warm black, are usually more of a brownish slate, and the transition into the blue of the lower breast and abdomen is rather abrupt. This blue is distinctly lighter than that of *stelleri*, and has little or none of the dilution with gray from the jugulum. It is nearer the shade of blue of *frontalis* tho more intense, namely cerulean blue with a large proportion of Antwerp in its makeup. Occasionally a *carbonacea* will 'individually' tend

<sup>1</sup>CONDOR II, Nov., 1900, 127.

<sup>2</sup>Auk XVIII, July 1901, 312. "Not considered worthy of recognition by name.

<sup>3</sup>To get the general shade it is necessary to observe the bird at arm's length or even at a greater distance. See Ridgway's Nomenclature of Colors, pl. IX.

toward *stelleri*, and in the same way we find a bird from Victoria tending toward *carbonacea*.

In view of the excellent material at hand, and as it will probably be some time before a series of specimens can be procured from the out-of-the-way type locality, I have thought it advisable to append a description of a bird from Comox, which is on the east side of Vancouver Id. in the same latitude as Nootka Sound.

+ *Cyanocitta stelleri stelleri*. (Gmelin) Steller Jay.

*Type of Diagnosis*, ♂ ad., Coll. U. S. Nat. Mus. 151575; Comox, Vancouver Id., B. C., June 1, 1895; collected by F. W. True and D. W. Prentiss; orig. No. 18.

Back, scapulars, about half lesser wing coverts, and head *within* slate black; crest black, forehead on each side very slightly streaked with blue; the feathers of throat with mesial parts light mouse gray so as to give throat a lighter shade. Abdomen, sides, flanks, under and upper tail coverts, dull Antwerp-verditer blue, darker on chest. Tertials and dorsum of tail Berlin blue, barred with black. Wing 147 mm., tail 134, exposed culmen 32, bill from nostril 24, tarsus 48. This bird is essentially like the Sitka examples.

The Steller jay and its races are confined to the wooded districts of the Canadian and Transition zones of the west. They are preeminently birds of the coniferous forests, and are rarely found out of them, except during their short winter rambles. So far as

known the bird does not migrate any great distance, but simply comes down from the inclement regions of the mountains, during the midwinter months, in search of food. *Cyanocitta stelleri stelleri* is characteristic of the Canadian Sitkan District, entering the rather boreal Humid Transition on the shores of Vancouver Id. and adjacent regions of Washington. *Cyanocitta stelleri carlotta* is confined to the Queen Charlotte Is., which resemble the mainland coast. *Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea* is typically a bird of the Pacific Coast Transition Faunal Area (Humid Transition) south of the Columbia R., ranging into the dilute Canadian of the coast of northern California and Oregon, and to a limited extent into the Arid Transition and Canadian. *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis* is characteristic of the greater part of the forested Arid Transition and Canadian of California. +

Most of the birds from western Washington are intermediate between *carbonacea* and *stelleri* but close to *stelleri*. In fact it is difficult to find two birds just alike from Washington. Specimens from eastern Washington are *annectens*. Near the central portion of the state it is probable one would find a mixture of *stelleri*, *annectens* and *carbonacea*. The only speci-

#### AREAS OF

#### INTERGRADATION.

men I have seen from just east of the Cascades (Goldendale) is unfortunately young and not diagnostic. A bird from Ft. Simpson, B. C. (on the coast) has strong *annectens* characters; one from Sumas, B. C. (near the Washington boundary) is typical *annectens*, whereas a specimen (probably a migrant) from Clinton, B. C. (in the interior) is *stelleri*. In the coast region of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, California, *carbonacea* intergrades with a small form of *frontalis* which ranges over the mountains of northern Lower California, and of Southern California south of the Tehachapi. In suitable localities in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Monterey counties, intergradation doubtless occurs toward the interior with typical *frontalis*, which ranges westward through the Tehachapi Mts. In Northern California intergradation undoubtedly occurs (from indications of specimens at hand) in the inner coast ranges (western Lake, eastern Mendocino counties, Yallo Bally, Bully Choop Mts., and 'Shasta Mts.'), and in the mountains of northern Shasta, eastern Siskiyou, and Modoc counties. The Mt. Shasta jay is intermediate but close to *carbonacea*. The bird from Ft. Crook in the northeast corner of Shasta Co. is rather nearer from-

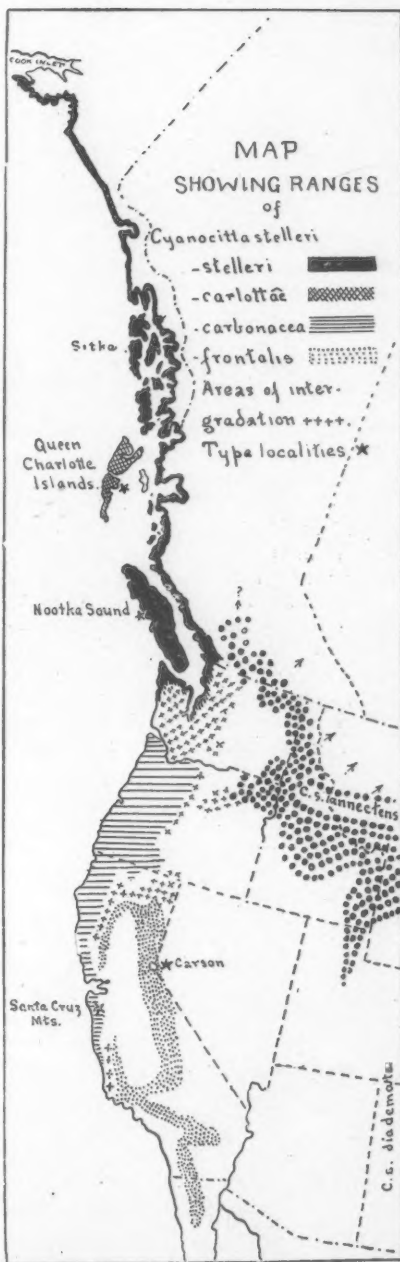
*talis*. In the more arid Lassen Co. it is probable that typical *frontalis* pushes farthest north, perhaps even entering Modoc Co. I have not seen birds from the Siskiyou Mts. proper, but they are almost certainly *carbonacea*, which with equal certainty can be said of the form inhabiting the western slope of the Cascades of Oregon. Ranging down the east slope this form intergrades through the Maury and Blue Mountain region with *annectens*. Tho the Fort Klamath bird shows some tendencies in the direction of *annectens*, I do not believe the form is the result of the intergradation of *frontalis* and *annectens* as has been suggested to me. The position of the Fort would indicate stock from the Cascade Range which adjoins the Willamette Valley. Any *annectens* blood is likely to be simply an infusion from the Blue Mts. via the east slope of the Cascades, *frontalis* being altogether out of the proposition. With these limitations the map represents in a general way our present knowledge of the distribution of the four essentially coast races.

The following are the differential color characters of our western *Cyanocittæ*, exclusive of Mexican forms.

## SYNOPSIS OF

## WESTERN JAYS.

- a. No white spot over eye.
- b. Bird larger (wing 152, tail 145) and bill heavier; head and back warm black; abdomen between Berlin blue and French blue; wings tending toward hyacinth blue. Queen Charlotte Is., B. C. *Cyanocitta stelleri carlottæ* Osgood.
- + bb. Bird smaller (w. 147, t. 134) and a trifle lighter, the blues of abdomen tending more to 'greenish' shades (Antwerp series.)
- c. Back and head warm slate black; frontal streaks much reduced; abdomen Antwerp-verditer blue, darkened by gray cast from breast; wings Berlin blue. Coast, from Cook Inlet to Vancouver Id., and northern Washington. *Cyanocitta stelleri stelleri*. (Gmelin).
- + cc. Abdomen clear cerulean-Antwerp blue, not darkened by extension of tint of head.
- d. Whole bird darker; frontal blue spots restricted; head darker than back; back warm slate gray. Coast of Cali-



fornia, Monterey County north to Oregon; Oregon west of Cascade Range, including east slope of Cascades *Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea* Grinnell.

dd. Whole bird paler; back mouse gray; frontal spots conspicuous and extended often tinging whole of relatively long crest; wings and tail lighter; grays with decided brownish cast. Sierra Nevada, from mountains at head of Sacramento Valley, Lassen Peak and northern Lassen Co.; interior-most coast ranges, and mountains of southern California and northern Lower California. *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis* Ridgway.

aa. White spot over eye; frontal streaks whitish.

b. White spot often small and inconspicuous; back slate, often with bluish tinge; breast and abdomen dark China blue; darkest on chest. Interior, British Columbia and northern Rocky Mt. region; Montana, Idaho, eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, south to Wasatch Mts. *Cyanocitta stelleri annectens* (Baird.)

bb. White spot very conspicuous; white frontal streaks conspicuous, shading off to bluish; back drab gray or mouse gray; head abruptly black; abdomen pale cerulean blue. Southern Rocky Mt. region from southern Wyoming to northern Mexico, west to Utah Mts., Utah and high mountains of Arizona. *Cyanocitta stelleri diademata* (Bonaparte).

The following localities have yielded typical *stelleri*. ALASKA: Yakutat 4, Seldovia 4, Port Graham, 4, Security Bay 1, Prince William Sound 1, Virgin Bay 1, Howkan 2, "Russian America" 2, Sitka 18; BRITISH COLUMBIA: New Westminster 1, Fort Simpson 2, Promise Island 1, Hastings 1, Lund 1, Clinton (migrant?) 1, Vancouver Id. 11; total 55.

*Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea* has been found at the following localities: OREGON: Wilson R., Tillamook Co. 1, Tillamook 1, Columbia R. 2, Beaverton 2, Salem 2, Oak Grove 1 (and 1 intermediate with *annectens*), Fort Klamath 8 (and 1 specimen close to *annectens*, migrant?). CALIFORNIA: Pacific Grove, Monterey Co. 2, Monterey 2, Santa Cruz 3, Palo Alto 4, Santa Cruz Mts. 2, San Francisco 1, Marin County 1, Nicasio 1, Humboldt Bay 3, Weaverville 1, Bully Choop Mts., Trinity Co. 1 (intermediate with *frontalis*), Carberry, Shasta Co. 1 (intermediate), Mt. Shasta 1 (not typical), Camp Bidwell 1 (? young); total 41. The following localities have yielded intermediates between *stelleri* and *carbonacea*, close to *stelleri*. BRITISH COLUMBIA: Agassiz 1 (individual), Victoria 1 (individual); WASHINGTON: Marcus 1, Ft. Steilacoom 1, Seattle 1, Puyallup 1, Neah Bay 6; total 12.

I have examined specimens of *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis* from the following localities. NEVADA: Carson (type loc.). CALIFORNIA: Baird, Shasta Co., Ft. Crook (not typical), Honey Lake, Big Trees, Mt. Whitney, Sequoia National Park, South Fork of Merced, Kernville, Walker Basin, Kern Lakes, Tejon Mts., Laguna San Diego Co., Pine Valley San Diego Co., Ventura Co. (intermediate with *carbonacea* but closer to *frontalis*), Los Alamos Santa Barbara Co. (intermediate, rather nearer *frontalis*), Mt. St. Helena. LOWER CALIFORNIA: Vallecitas, Valle Palmas, Guadalupe Canyon.

#### The Monterey Fox Sparrow.

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

DURING two summers I have spent in the vicinity of Monterey special search has failed to reveal the presence of any form of *Passerella*. Transition and Boreal species a plenty throughout the breeding season render this region abruptly distinct from the surrounding Sonoran fauna. But the fox sparrow is conspicuous by its absence from the ranks of those northern coast species here present and with which it is wont to be found elsewhere. In this "Santa Cruz Faunal Area" we find siskins, *Cyanocittas*, hermit thrushes, winter wrens, juncos and others of the same category, all of which nest in this limited region. So I had expected to find *Passerella*, but for some reason *Passerella* has not found here a congenial breeding home.

But in winter, when birds drop from zone to zone, fox sparrows are spread



broadcast throughout California west of the Sierras. Last December I found them fairly numerous in the neighborhood of Pacific Grove and Monterey, where they were detected only among dense brush on shaded north hillsides or along clearings in the woods. The leaf-scratching habit gave the usual clue to their whereabouts. The five *Passerellas* collected, at once struck me as differing from those of the *townsendi* group in my collection from Southern California and from Central California east of the coast belt. Examination of all available material brings to light several more skins exactly like the Monterey specimens. These are all from the Santa Cruz District (Sierra Morena; Pescadero Creek.) None from elsewhere are comparable. So that here is apparently a race confined to a circumscribed winter habitat, far removed from its summer habitat.

Vigors, in the zoology of the voyage of H. M. S. Blossom, 1839, page 19, describes from Monterey a *Fringilla meruloides*, the brief description of which applies quite well to this form. He does not give any date of capture, but in accordance with my foregoing remarks, there can be little doubt but that it was the present race he had in hand. Therefore it may be called *Passerella iliaca meruloides* (Vigors), with the following description:

SUBSP. CHAR.—Most nearly like *Passerella iliaca insularis* Ridgway, but bill decidedly smaller and coloration throughout darker and browner.

TOPOTYPE—♀, No. 5056. Coll. J. G.; Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., California; Dec. 30, 1901

COLORATION—Top and sides of head, back, wings and tail, prout brown tending toward, seal brown; forehead and superciliary stripe, gray; edgings of wings and tail, brightening toward walnut brown; maxillary region, sides and spotting on lower surface, prout brown tinged with burnt umber; flanks, bistre; lower tail coverts streaked with bistre and edged with isabella color; belly and remainder of lower surface, white; base of lower mandible, gallstone yellow.

MEASUREMENTS—Wing, 81 mm; tail, 75; culmen, 11; depth of bill, 8.25; tarsus, 25; hind toe with claw, 20.

I do not know what the extent of the summer habitat of this race is. I have no Alaskan specimens at hand like it. But judging from Ridgway's brief description, his *Passerella iliaca annectens* from Yakutat Bay, Alaska, is synonymous. If this is the case, then the form breeding in the Yakutat Bay district is this one which winters in the Santa Cruz district.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY.

**A Criticism of Two Recent Records.**—In the *Auk* for January 1902 are two Californian bird records that I believe to be erroneous. On page 80 Mr. Loomis states that the California Academy of Sciences has an example of *Micro-pallas whitneyi* collected by J. A. Kusche April 20 1898 ten miles from San Bernardino. Mr. Kusche obtained an owl of this species that came from Arizona, from R. B. Herron of San Bernardino, and we believe that it is the same owl recorded in the *Auk*.

On page 83 Mr. Loomis records a male *Eugenes fulgens* as having been taken by Kusche in San Geronimo Pass, Riverside County July 15, 1899. I believe this hummingbird was one obtained from Webster by Kusche. If Mr. Loomis had known Kusche as well as we southern Californians do, he would not have made these records.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, Cal.*

**Occurrence of the Redpoll in California.**—As new notes are always interesting, these are my observations on *Acanthis linaria*, recorded in the winter of 1899 near Eagle Lake, Lassen County, Cal. The redpoll arrived in my neighborhood on Nov. 30. At first I found only two large flocks, but later numerous smaller ones greatly increased their numbers. I ran into the first of these flocks, well in forest, a mile or so from a valley. The birds were circling about over the tree-tops, twittering noisily, much after the manner of *Spinus pinus*, and now and then they would settle into the upper branches of some pine, to be off again almost before the stragglers had reached it. Later the flock settled in the birches and bushes along a small stream, alighting all around me. The crops of seven birds shot here were gorged with buds from the birch shoots.

Late the same afternoon I found another flock out in the sage brush, three-quarters of a mile from the edge of the forest. These birds had been feeding on the tender buds of the sage. Their plumage was quite dirty. All through December flocks of redpolls could be found near

the stream in the pines where I first found them, and in the sage in one portion of the valley, but I failed to find them anywhere else. Of forty specimens of *Acanthis linaria* taken between November 30 and December 23, only seven were adult males in rosy plumage. J. M. WILLARD, *Oakland, Cal.*

**Clangula hiemalis in Marin County, Cal.** I wish to record a specimen of the old-squaw (*Clangula hiemalis*,) male hornot-shot in this county on Dec. 17, 1901 and sent to me for our collection. It is not an important record but these birds are not often taken in this locality. JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Geronimo, Cal.*

**An Extension of the Southern Range of *Perisoreus obscurus*.**—While collecting near Mendocino last summer I met a trapper who described to me this species and stated that it was not rare in the forests covering the more mountainous portions of the immediate country. The substance of his description was to the effect that the bird was a jay without a crest, grayish in coloration and with a white stripe through the eye. He had observed the species in the fall attacking venison which had been hung up in the forest. The carnivorous habits of the genus are characteristic and this statement greatly strengthens the identification. The species is evidently resident in southern Mendocino County. We have magnanimously left it to future exploration to make this record more authentic. EDMUND HELLER, *Riverside, Cal.*

**Early Nesting of the Western Redtail.**—On Feb. 14, 1902 I collected a set of two eggs of the western redtail (*Buteo borealis calurus*,) These were taken from a medium-sized nest fifty-one feet up in a sycamore, and were normal in size and markings. The hawks had secured a large piece of barley sack and with this made a lining for the nest, the eggs being covered by it. This is an early date for this locality and the eggs were fresh. Pacific horned owls are about as usual, sets of two being taken on Feb. 2 and 8. J. B. DIXON, *Escondido, Cal.*

**A Partial Albino.**—On Feb. 19, 1902, I shot an odd female partial albino California bicolor blackbird (*Agelaius gubernator californicus*) in the willows bordering the salt marshes below Haywards, Cal. The tail has four white feathers, two on each side, while the right wing has two of the primaries white and the left wing one. Otherwise the plumage is normal. The right foot has but two toes, the middle one being gone. A few years ago an adult male redwing with its entire tail white was noted flying about the newly-sown grainfields near town. W. OTTO EMERSON, *Haywards, Cal.*

**Notes From About San Francisco.**—On Dec. 28, 1901 while collecting near San Bruno I came across a flock of twenty-five *Regulus satrapa olivaceus*. They were together in a large oak and were very tame, one male and two females being secured.

While skinning an immature *Larus philadelphia* I found a tapeworm about six inches long in the intestines. I also found one in a male *Passerella i. unalaschensis*; both taken Dec. 26, 1901.

On Feb. 2 and 15 I saw two *Sitta canadensis* in some fir trees in Golden Gate Park about one-half mile from the ocean, and on Dec. 27 a single specimen, all being very tame. J. R. PEMBERTON, *San Francisco.*

**Additions to the List of Paicines Birds.**—Since our list was published in THE CONDOR (III, No. 5) my brother and I have noted the following in that locality: gadwall (*Anas strepera*), two immature males captured; hooded merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), a pair shot but not recovered; rusty song sparrow (*Melospiza m. guttata*), one specimen taken Dec. 8. Besides these a female hybrid was taken which seems to be a cross between a mallard and a cinnamon teal. This specimen's markings, color of bill and feet correspond very closely with those of the female mallard, while its size approaches that of the cinnamon teal. Hybrids are often found and are most probably the offspring of birds that have been crippled the year before, but seldom are they of such violent crosses. JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Geronimo, Cal.*

**Birds Destroyed by Pools of Petroleum Along Railroads.** The oil burning locomotive is now a factor in bird destruction. A helper engine having run short of water and not 2 ing enough to take her to the next tank, "headed in" on the house track where her engineer "killed" her to await being towed to a tank and while lying there she dropped a quantity of fuel oil on the track below. This amounted to probably eight or ten gallons which, after cooling off became very thick or about the consistency of black molasses. Into this native sparrows flew (probably mistaking it for water) and were killed in exactly the same way as a fly is killed on fly-paper. Since then I have noticed all along the right-of-way numbers of sparrows, desert (?) horned larks, kangaroo rats and other small birds and animals dead in the oil. Nearly all the engines drop oil along the track in different quantities, and I have seen four and five sparrows in a puddle the size of a cheese box. In a large puddle (the one referred to above) I counted fifteen dead in one day and each succeeding day added new victims. The birds would fly into the oil as they do in water for a bath and first their feet, next their wings and then their heads would sink into it and they would finally become entirely covered. OTTO HOLSTRIN, *Blake, Cal.*



**The Passing of the Great Blue Heron at Santa Monica.**—When I moved to Santa Monica in the fall of 1894 I had just about time to get used to the surroundings before the next collecting season, and found it the best outlook of any place I had ever been in. On the north are the Santa Monica mountains, on the south Ballona swamp and between the two a sloping mesa. Here, as one might expect, a great variety of birds is to be found.

On the north side of town, twenty-two miles distant, is a large canyon the bottom of which is completely covered with immense sycamores. Here on May 13, 1895 I found a colony of great blue herons nesting and counted in all about thirty-five nests, of which only three contained sets of four eggs each with incubation well advanced, a few young and the rest apparently deserted. The nests were placed in the tops of the tallest trees about seventy feet up and were composed entirely of sticks lined with a few sycamore leaves which I suppose fell into the nest from the branches above. The nests were as close together as nesting sites would permit and were all crowded in six or seven trees.

Every year the number of nests decreased until in 1900 only four nests were left, three of which were occupied, and in 1901 only one nest was to be seen and whether it was occupied or not I could not say as I only made one trip to the canyon. Next year I shall be surprised if any are there as the birds are being shot right along, although protected by the law. W. LEE, Santa Monica, Cal.

**A Correction.**—The specimen upon which the record of *Colymbus auritus* from Mono Lake (CONDOR IV. p. 10) was based proves to be *Colymbus nigricollis californicus*. The bird is a young female and in some characters resembles *auritus*, but in its color and small size it is clearly referable to *californicus*. WALTER K. FISHER.

**Fall Distribution of the Western Robin.**—In partial answer to Mr. Williams' inquiry in THE CONDOR Vol. III, No 6. I will state that *Merula m. propinqua* is very common along the low mountains of Sonoma and Mendocino counties in the months of August and September, when adults and young may be seen around the springs and cattle trough in good-sized flocks. In some years they are quite plentiful in Marin County, feeding on berries during the month of October, but I have never noted any at this time in juvenile plumage in this locality. Some years they seem to find food more plentiful elsewhere and do not come in here until well along into the winter. JOSEPH MAILLIARD, San Geronimo, Cal.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

Editor THE CONDOR:

Will you kindly publish the manuscript I send herewith. The editor of *Science* cannot see his way to printing my rejoinder to Professor Clark's article which appeared a few days since in his journal. It involves a very important point in the relationships of birds.

Yours very sincerely,

R. W. SHUFELDT,  
Fellow A. O. U.

### PTERYLOSIS OF HUMMINGBIRDS AND SWIFTS.

In a recent issue of *Science* (Jan. 17, 1902, pp. 108, 109) Professor Hubert Lyman Clark publishes some interesting notes on the comparative morphology of the swifts, goatsuckers and hummingbirds (*Cypseli*, *Caprimulgi* and *Trochili*.) In this article Professor Clark makes extensive reference to a memoir of mine on 'Studies of the Macrochires' published some twenty years ago by the Linnæan Society of London (1888), and it seems to me has left unnoticed a number of facts that certainly should have been noticed in his contribution.

The title to this latter asks the question "Are Hummingbirds Cypseloid or Caprimulgoid"? to which, by no means difficult ques-

tion, I would reply that the hummingbirds are neither like the swifts nor are they like the goatsuckers, and decidedly less like the latter than they are like the former. As I have fully examined the *entire anatomy* of all three of these groups, it would seem that I am as well if not better, prepared to answer such a question had I only examined their pterylography, even though the latter examination included examples of every species of swift, goatsucker and hummingbird in the world known to science.

But it is only the pterylography of these several groups of birds that concerns us here, as there is no evidence before me that Professor Clark has investigated any other part of their morphology. Now Professor Clark admits in his article in *Science* that he is familiar with the memoir contributed to the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London for April 2, 1901, by Professor D'Arcy Thompson, entitled 'On the Pterylosis of the Giant Hummingbird (*Patagona gigas*)'. He admits that "No group of birds with which I am acquainted shows such remarkable uniformity in their pterylography as do the hummingbirds" (p. 109). Further, Professor Clark admits that "So far as I can see Professor Thompson's figures of *Patagona* would answer, almost without change for any of the 11 species I have examined;" he

also admits that he has examined pterylographically that peculiar swift *Callocalia*, together with a number of others.

He then states that "the posterior cervical apterium, so conspicuous in the hummingbirds, is present in every swift I have examined." He adds that "Dr. Shufeldt says it is never present in the swifts," to which I would reply that so far as I am aware Professor Clark and Mr. Lucas are the only ones who have ever found it there. He states in his article that Professor Thompson failed to find it in the swift *Callocalia*, to which I would further invite his attention to the fact that Nitzsch, the greatest known authority on the pterylography of birds, failed to find it in *Cypselus apus*, a form that perhaps may be regarded as the type of the swifts. (Pterlography. Taf. III. fig. 17). All this is the more remarkable inasmuch as Mr. F. A. Lucas has said that "Some of the swifts, too, possess the bare space on the back of the neck, and, while this is usually quite short, yet in the species that makes the edible nests (*Callocalia fuciphaga*) and which has a very long neck, the nape tract is also long." (Rep. Nat. Mus. 1890. p. 290).

Therefore Mr. Lucas and Professor Thompson disagree on this very point in the same genus of swifts! And, to make it still more confusing, Mr. Lucas, in the work just cited, gives us a figure of the pterylosis of a hummingbird (*Florisuga mellivora*) wherein the dorsal pterylosis is strikingly different from the dorsal pterylosis of a hummingbird (*Trochilus moschilus*) given us by Nitzsch (Taf. III. fig. 18. loc. cit.) and this places Mr. Lucas, to the extent of these differences, at variance with Professor Clark, who says that the pterylography of the hummingbirds "shows such remarkable uniformity" (p. 109, cited above). Nitzsch in his figure of a hummingbird gives the "humeral tracks" clear, distinct and well defined, while Mr. Lucas in his hummingbird has the dorsal aspects of the pectoral limbs fully feathered, all to a small, subcircular apterium over either humerus, where the humeral tracts of Nitzsch are drawn! In fact insofar as this area is concerned, the two figures are diametrically the opposite of each other. In this comparison I have not taken into consideration the naked black areas over the pinion of either limb, shown by Lucas but overlooked in the hummingbird by Nitzsch. Why Professor Clark asks the question as he does in the title of his article in *Science*, "Are Hummingbirds Cypseloid or Caprimulgoid?" is hard for me to say. It means to enquire whether hummingbirds are more like the swifts or more like the goatsuckers? Now only about a year ago Professor Clark admitted that "no sharp line can be drawn pterylographically between the *Caprimulgi* and the *Striges*, *Antrostomus* and

*Podargus* furnishing just such intermediate characters as might be expected from their size and habits." (*The Auk*, Apr. 1901, p. 170.) Surely Professor Clark sees nothing in the hummingbirds that leads him to believe that they have any close affinity with the owls (*Striges*)? If not, why ask the question whether hummingbirds are Caprimulgoid? I believe him to be perfectly correct in his opinion in regard to the affinity the owls have with the goatsuckers, and insofar as their pterylography goes no one could have demonstrated it better, but one must get the ancient picarian bee completely out of one's anatomical thinking-cap before cypselo-trochiline comparisons can be made without bias and without prejudice.

R. W. SHUFELDT.

502 W. 142nd St., New York City.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

(Receipt of individual contributions, and reviews will appear in May.)

*American Ornithology*, II, Nos. 2, 3, Feb., Mch. 1902.

*Birds & Nature*, XI, Nos. 1, 2, Jan. Feb., 1902.

*Bird Lore*, IV, No. I, Jan.-Feb., 1902.

*Jahresbericht des Ornithologischen Vereins-Munchen*, II, 1899 and 1900. Pub. 1901.

*Journal of the Maine Orn. Society*, IV, No. 1, Jan. 1902.

*Maine Sportsman* IX, Nos. 10, 11; Jan. Feb., 1902.

*Nature Study*, II, Nos. 8, 9, 10, Jan., Feb., Mch., 1902.

*Notes on Rhode Id. Ornithology*, III, No. 1, Jan. 1902.

*Novitates Zoologicae*, VIII, No. 4, Dec. 31, 1901.

*Ohio Naturalist*, II, Nos. 3, 4, Jan. Feb., 1902.

*Oologist*, The, XIX, Nos. 1, 2, Jan. Feb., 1902.

*Ornithologisches Jahrbuch*, XIII, Nos. 1, 2, Jan.-Apl., 1902.

*Osprey, The*, V, Nos. 11-12. Nov. and Dec., 1901. New Series, I, No. 1, Jan. 1902.

*Our Animal Friends*, XXIX, No. 6, Feb. 1902.

*Our Dumb Animals*, XXXIV, Nos. 8, 9, Jan. Feb. 1902.

*Out West*, XVI, Nos. 1, 2, Jan. Feb. 1902.

*Plant World*, IV, No. 12, Dec. 1901. V, No. 1, Jan., 1902.

*Popular Science*, XXXVI, Nos. 2, 3, Feb. Mch., 1902.

*Recreation*, XVI, Nos. 1, 2, 3, Jan. Feb. Mch. 1902.

*West American Scientist*, XII, Nos. 8, 9, Jan. Feb. 1902.

*Wilson Bulletin*, No. 37, Dec. 1, 1901.

## GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

O. W. Howard and H. S. Swarth have departed for a five months' collecting trip in Arizona.

On March 4 Mr. Chas. R. Keyes presented a paper before the Ornithological Section of the Academy of Sciences entitled "Eastern Iowa as a Field for the Ornithologist."

R. C. McGregor, whose ornithological work has become extralimital, has occasioned some uneasiness by sending a note from the "Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes for the Philippine Islands!"

Malcolm P. Anderson has spent the past winter in the Sisiiyou Mountains in the north-western part of the state. From latest advices Mr. Anderson has been very successful in obtaining several birds of particular interest.

Mr. J. H. Bowles of Tacoma, Wash. has in process a work on *The Birds of Washington* to be issued at perhaps an early date. Mr. Bowles' painstaking and accurate writings assure ornithologists of a treat in the completed work.

Mr. H. W. Fowler, a well-known Philadelphia ornithologist and formerly secretary of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, is now located at Stanford University and delivered a most entertaining paper at the March meeting of the Northern Division.

Oologists will regret to hear that Mr. A. M. Shields contemplates disposing of his entire egg collection, which is one of the most extensive remaining on the coast. Lack of time in which to care for the collection has brought about this decision, but it is to be hoped that many of the fine series will be secured intact by other advanced oologists.

An Alameda paper prints the following advertisement which has been traced to H. R. Taylor: "FOR SALE. Live great horned owl and peregrine falcon, handsome birds, little care, fed once a day on meat. Owl has a fine bass voice and hoots nightly and on foggy mornings; better than an alarm clock; lives in cahoots with falcon. Reasonable price; address 'Hoot Mon,' this office."

Archibald J. Campbell, author of "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds," and a prominent ornithologist of that region writes Mr. M. S. Ray under date of Dec. 12, 1901: "You may be glad to hear that we have started an ornithological union in Australia with an official journal called 'The Emu.' So far the movement has received great encouragement not only from home but abroad also."

As we go to press an expedition is about to depart to engage in work among the fishes, invertebrates and birds of the Hawaiian Islands. Dr. Chas. H. Gilbert of Stanford University is in charge and is accompanied by Walter K. Fisher and J. O. Snyder, besides other zoologists, who will have their headquarters on the U. S. Fish Commission steamer Albatross. The expedition will be gone six months.

Mr. Wm. Alauson Bryan is investigating desirable birds to introduce into the Hawaiian Islands. There have been recent invasions of injurious insects and Mr. Bryan hopes to find some California species adapted to the conditions of the islands which will at the same time exterminate these pests. We doubt the advisability of introducing foreign birds for such purposes. Species occasionally change their habits under new conditions forcibly imposed and are likely to prove undesirable citizens.

It is worth remarking that not in the nine years of its existence has a meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club been deferred on account of inclement weather until the session of March 1. On that day the elements conspired to bring about such boisterous conditions that few even of the enthusiasts chose to venture out. Mr. Grinnell, with a proper regard for his presidential duties, and accompanied by an anchor and an umbrella, sought the meeting place at Stanford University where he informally 'received' the kindred spirits who assembled. The meeting was postponed and the session of a week later proved one of the most enthusiastic of recent years.

The chapter arrangement suggested by Mr. Daggett some months ago and later embodied in the new constitution of the club, bids fair to become a reality. The Oakland members of the club, headed by Misses Helen Swett and Bertha L. Chapman, hope to organize a chapter at an early date. If so, Oakland can claim honor for the initial chapter, and other sections should rapidly follow the example.

## THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

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This issue of *The Condor* was mailed Mar. 13.

#### EDITORIAL

Our contemporary, *The Osprey*, begins the new year with a new series. The January issue presents a change of cover paper while laid paper is used of the inside, giving a pleasing result. An excellent monograph of the California jay by Donald A. Cohen constitutes the opening article.

The editors present their thanks to Mr. Richard C. McGregor for his careful preparation of the index to Volume III which is mailed with this issue.

Readers of this magazine will observe that almost the entire space of the issue is given over to text. The problem of a large quantity of MS. has necessitated the omission of a number of half-tones intended for this issue, but these will appear in the May *CONDOR*. Among the illustrated articles laid over is one by Wm. L. Finley on "Seabirds of the Oregon Coast", accompanied by several of Mr. Bohlman's superb bird photographs.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A LETTER FROM THE GALAPAGOS EXPEDITION.

Lat. 16° 40', Long 104° 15'.  
January 1, 1902.

Editor *THE CONDOR*:

A resolution formed this morning (the customary day for new resolutions) was to the effect

that a nice, rambling, disconnected letter to you would be the proper form. (Digression: Have just spent one-half hour getting a small tern, a new one to us, that flew about in company of another, the former being the first of its kind we have seen). To begin, the weather is a fertile topic, we having had lovely weather for steamboats but for our sailing vessel a trifle too calm.

We are 240 miles west of Acapulco, Mexico, where we are bound with two men from Clipperton Island. Yesterday we made 16 miles N. W., the day before 9 miles N. E., and the two preceding days 100 miles each east, so you see it is about as uncertain as it is collecting eagles' eggs at Sargents. We thought four days ago that we might be at Acapulco by New Years; now we hope to get there in the sweet bye and bye. From there we go to Cocos, probably, and thence to the Galapagos. After leaving Mexico we expect a fair wind to Cocos.

The evenings and mornings are glorious out here, bright, delicately-tinted clouds at sunset and daybreak that completely eclipse similar sea-scapes in California. The birds that occur off here are several in variety. The other morning, my watch from 4 to 8, the first seen was a single shearwater from Socorro, then a petrel flitted by. Next was a young Brewster booby that circled about and flew off to join some blue-faced boobies in the distance. A red-billed tropic bird appeared for a few minutes and later in the day a frigate bird showed in the sky. These are our usual visitors.

Around Clipperton *Aestrelata phaeopygia* was frequently seen and the sooty terns wander hundred of miles from the island. The blue-faced boobies found at sea at this season are all young birds, that is, ten or eleven months old. Nearly all that we have seen at sea for the last three weeks have been in this plumage. Within 40 miles of Clipperton adult boobies were common, and of the thousands of blue-faced boobies seen on the island but one was seen in the spotted plumage.

Clipperton Island! How I'd like to spend the month of January there with a good 8x10 camera. The family life of three or four species of birds could be pretty well photographed in that time. Of the blue-faced boobies (*Sula cyanops*) one can get a picture of one or a hundred or a thousand. Their tameness is occasionally decidedly annoying when one happens to be in a hurry and the nests are close together. It is advisable always to walk not closer than two feet from a sitting bird. With nests scattered around promiscuously it is a regular zigzag trail one makes. *Sula nesiotiles* which is abundant also, does not nest till later though pairs of birds are holding down nesting sites and an occasional young bird unable to fly is noted.

But the land crabs! Why, there are millions

and millions of them and the astonishing effrontery of the intrepid thieves! I couldn't stand still two minutes before one would be clawing at my shoe, and from all directions the crabs would be edging toward me with a stealthy, sidelong, intermittent movement, and great, wide-open, bulging, staring eyes. As an instance of their amazing impudence I laid down three or four birds in front of me in order to wrap up some eggs. After wrapping three or four I glanced at the birds and an insatiable glutton of a crab had chewed off an eyelid of one while two others were picking at the wings of another bird and yerd's away other crabs were hurrying forward to participate in the toothsome repast. I scared back the nearest and felt a nip at my foot. There was an old reprobate trying to crawl into a little crack in my shoe, while near at hand came others to reinforce him. I actually had to wrap the birds up before doing anything else.

Now if I wanted to give you a distorted version or exaggerate this statement in the least I would elaborate in the manner in which they carried off eggs while I was wrapping birds, but I haven't given you any thing but an abridged condensation of the facts! I wrapped the birds and eggs in a hurry and left the spot. But it is laughable to see a crab seize an egg as they do with boobies' eggs when occasion offers. They grasp it tenderly in that long arm and sidle off in a fashion highly amusing. The men on the islands tell me the crabs often take the young boobies from under their parents and I can easily believe it. They also say but one young bird is reared though two eggs are usually hatched. I cannot recall now having seen two fair-sized young of either the blue-faced or variegated species, though I have seen plenty of nests of both with one young bird and two eggs.

The land crabs are one of the unpleasant features to a collector down here. On Socorro Island which we visited I wandered along under a wide-spreading mangrove-like tree and would see an inviting looking dead stump with an excellent roosting hole for a pair of the rare screech owls. Running my arm down to the full length I would jerk it out with a great big orange and pink land crab closely hugging a sore finger that had inadvertently been placed in his light. A careful inspection of other similar holes usually revealed one of the detestable cannibals snugly ensconced therein. While larger than Clipperton crabs they are not as plentiful and one could lay down 15 or 20 minutes I think before a crab would venture near. They are more cautious on this island, due perhaps to the redtails which I think eat them. On San Benedicte and Clarion islands one is unaware of the existence of crabs till he has dug five or six feet down with his hands into a fresh looking shear-

water's nest. Then stretched out in the boiling sun, covered with dirt and perspiration and straining every muscle to reach the end of the hole, you feel a decided pressure on the tips of two or three fingers and after a long, strong pull out comes a fine red land crab in the place of the shearwater you hoped for. But enough of these ever-present pests.

On San Benedicte I got into a colony of frigate birds that were nesting on the ground. At a mile distant a number were seen circling about a knoll and I went over to see what was the attraction. Webster boobies were nesting in the long grass in the little runs and hollows, this being the first time I had seen them nesting on the ground. On Clarion and in the Galapagos they always nested in trees and bushes, while here there were no trees. Approaching the ridge 200 or more frigates were seen sitting closely together. I took off my hat and crouching low, worked my way carefully along to a favorable position for a photograph but it was facing the bright sun so I determined to get around to the other end of the colony. Circling a little mound I came plump into a lot of nests with young birds two weeks old, and up the hill seventy-five yards were 500 or more setting birds.

I sneaked across and into a deep gully that ran parallel with the ridges on which they were nesting. Getting near the upper end of the colony I cautiously raised my head and planted the camera at a distance of twenty yards and got a picture. Then I slowly crept forward to fifteen yards and gradually closer and as the birds were not seriously disturbed I walked right up to the nearest one but they stayed where they were. For the next hour I maneuvered through that mass of birds trying the camera first in one position and then in another. Finally I placed the tripod squarely over a setting bird and got a snap. Then I decided to get a picture showing the eggs in the nests. I placed the camera and started out to scare off 20 or 30 birds in front of it, and it was necessary to elevate the birds with my foot to persuade them to leave. I was only able to use three plates in this colony having taken but six ashore. It was the most compact colony of nesting frigates I have seen. And the flying lice! Some birds would have two or three dozen in the nest. When left suddenly by the bird they fluttered into my face, hands and head and the tenacity of their grip was bewildering. Sometimes there were a dozen on the throat of a setting booby, something I never noticed elsewhere.

Leisurely yours,

R. H. BECK.

Five miles off Acapulco.

JANUARY, 5, 1902.

We are now sailing wing and wing for the entrance of the harbor and will be ashore to-



morrow if nothing happens. Yesterday I had the boat out and picked up a least petrel and a couple of others. Three or four Brewster boobies which were common are also laid away for inspection. We saw several turtles but they heard us approaching and went down before we could get near. Adieu till next summer,—June or July perhaps.

R. H. BECK

### Official Minutes Northern Division.

#### MARCH.

The Division met at Palo Alto March 8, President Grinnell presiding and fourteen active members present. Five visitors were present. The following were elected to active membership in the Club; Dr. R. F. Rooney, Auburn; Leverett M. Loomis, San Francisco; Murray M. Watson, Pacific Grove and Frank J. Smith, Eureka.

Eight proposals for membership were filed, as follows:—Frederick W. Kobbe, San Francisco; Geo. H. Ready, Santa Cruz; Lee Nims, Pacific Grove; Hubert O. Jenkins, Stanford University; Alice M. Jenkins, Stanford University; Wm. G. Renwick, Claremont; Clarence S. Sharp, Escondido; Wilson C. Hanna, Colton.

The resignations of Henry C. Johnson, Harry B. Torrey and E. B. Towne were read and accepted. The programme of the evening was then taken up. Fred H. Fowler spoke on "Reminiscences of Arizona Birds," dealing with field work in the Huachuca Mts., with Dr. A. K. Fisher some years ago. Many anecdotes served to make the talk peculiarly interesting. Mr. H. W. Fowler of Philadelphia read a paper entitled "Ornithology of Philadelphia", covering the progress of ornithology in that city and referring to its present active workers. Ralph Arnold detailed the "Nesting of the Dwarf Hermit Thrush" in the Cascade Mts. of Washington, and Joseph Grinnell spoke on "The Parasitic Gulls of the Pacific Coast", exhibiting skins and various plumages of the jaegers of the coast and interestingly outlining their piratical tendencies.

The Club meets next on May 3 at Berkeley.

### Official Minutes Southern Division.

#### JANUARY.

The annual meeting of the Southern Division was held Jan. 11 at the studio of Mr. Roth Reynolds, H. J. Leland presiding and eight members present. Dr. F. M. Palmer was elected to active membership. The resignation of W. Scott Way of Cucamonga was accepted. The report of the Division treasurer for the past year was given by Mr. Swarth and accepted. The annual election of officers resulted as follows, to serve during 1902: President, F. S. Daggett; vice president, H. J. Leland; secretary, Howard Robertson; treasurer, H. S. Swarth; associate editor, Howard Robert-

son. On suggestion of Mr. Leland it was decided to adopt a systematic plan of study, taking up some one of the bird families at each meeting. The following papers were read: "Over the Teslin Trail to Dawson," W. B. Judson; "Bird Studies from a Hammock in Strawberry Valley," Mrs. C. A. Moody; "The Snowy Plover and Passing of the Great Blue Heron," W. L. Chambers.

#### FEBRUARY.

The Division met Feb. 7 at the residence of W. B. Judson with eight members present. Mrs. Bowers was present as a visitor. The resignation of Howard Rivers was accepted. The resignation of Dr. Garrett Newkirk was withdrawn. H. L. Graham of Redlands was reinstated to active membership. Several short articles on the hummingbirds were presented, as follows: "The Hummingbirds of Escondido and Vicinity," Nelson Carpenter; "A Few Notes on the Nesting of *T. alexandri*," R. C. Wueste; "From My Note Book," Mollie Bryan; "Anna Hummingbird," Burnell Franklin. Mr. Swarth read some extracts from notes taken by Mr. F. Stephens on a trip from Yuma through San Bernardino to Bear Valley some years ago. He also exhibited a number of skins of hummingbirds found in the United States and about sixty varieties from South America, giving a short sketch of nearly all. Mr. Simmons exhibited a number of nests and eggs of hummingbirds common in Southern California.

#### FEBRUARY

The Division met Feb. 28 with Mr. Roth Reynolds with thirteen active members and four visitors present. The names of Thomas Brown and Edward Howard of Los Angeles were proposed for active membership. The following papers were read. "Some Owl Notes from my Note Book," F. Stephens; "Notes," J. Eugene Law; "Owls of Escondido and Vicinity," Nelson Carpenter; "The Pygmy Owl," W. B. Judson. Mr. Reynolds read an article in answer to an argument presented by Mr. Swarth at a recent meeting concerning "the use of facts". The Division meets next on March 29 when the hawks will be discussed.

### OBITUARY.

In the middle of January last, Miss Bertha F. Herrick of Oakland, an active member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, passed away. Miss Herrick had always possessed a deep love for Nature, and her rambles afield led her most often among the birds. Seven years ago she took out field classes of children from Oakland, whom she found pleasure in instructing in the varied and beautiful secrets of the field and forest, and those who knew her thus hold her in loving memory. Miss Herrick had been a member of the Club for two years and had at all times enthusiastically assisted in its work.







### Exchanges.

Each member of the Club, not in arrears for dues, is entitled to three exchange notices of 30 words each during the year; other subscribers, one such notice.

FOR EXCHANGE. Hundreds of skins and some sets for sets. J. CLARE WOOD, 196 Randolph St., Detroit, Michigan.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Until further notice please address me, RICHARD C. MCGREGOR, Philippine Insular Museum, Manila, P. I.

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BOOKS FOR EGGS. One copy Vennor's "Eagles, Hawks and Owls of Canada," cost \$12.50; one copy Fisher's "Hawks and Owls of the U. S.," one copy "Alaskan birds," Nelson, 1887, and one copy Vol. IX Pac. R. R.

Surveys, 1857." Birds to exchange for best offers in sets with data. All books in good condition. CHARLES S. THOMPSON, Stanford University, California.

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